Infiltration along Bhutan Border

2231. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Centre mulls force on Bhutan border" as reported in the Statesman dated the 30th January,2002;

(b) if so, whether the Indian insurgents have set up their base in Bhutan and creating problemsf rom West Bengal and Assam borders.

(c) if so, the facts thereof and whether Government have deployed more forces/strengthened its borders with Bhutan to check infiltration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of a news-item captioned "Centre mulls force on Bhutan border" which appeared in the Statesman dated the 30th December, 2002.

(b) to (d) Reports of Indian Insurgent groups like United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and Kamtapuri Liberation Organisation (KLO) setting up their camps in Bhutan and launching subversive activities across the indian border in North Bengal and Assam from these camps have been received by Government from time to time. Government has decided in principle to deploy a Border Guarding Force along this border to curb the movement of Indian insurgent groups using Bhutan as a base/sanctuary.

Request for Amending Article 371 by Karnataka

2232. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government have sought amendment to Article 371 of the Constitution to provide special reservations in employment and education for backward areas of the State;

(b) if so, whether the Government have rejected the proposal;

(c) whether amendments were made in Article 371 to provide special

and separate reservation in employment and education for the backward areas of Telengana (A.P.) and Vidarbha (Maharashtra); and

(d) if so, the reasons for the discrimination against the aspirations of the people of backward areas in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) A proposal had been received from the State Government of Karnataka for amending Article 371 of the Constitution of India to provide for region-wise reservation in employment and admission to educational institutions in Karnataka on the lines of provisions in Article 371 D of the Constitution of India with respect to the State of Andhra Pradesh. It was not found feasible.

(c) Article 371 (2) was inserted through an amendment to make speciaUprovisions empowering the President to make orders in respect of Maharashtra and Gujarat to provide for any special responsibility of the Governors of Maharashtra and Gujarat, *inter-alia* to provide adequate facilities for technical education and vocational training, and adequate opportunities for employment in service under the control of the State Government. Article 371-D was inserted to make special provisions for the State of Andhra Pradesh as a whole for equitable opportunities and facilities for the people belonging to different parts of the State in the matter of public employment and education.

(d) The circumstances in Andhra Pradesh that led to the insertion of Article 371 D in the Constitution in 1973 do not exist in Karnataka.

Charges levelled against Iftikar Geelani

†2233. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Iftikar Geelani, Correspondent, 'Kashmir Times' was arrested by the police in the year 2002 in Delhi;

(b) if so, the complete details in this regard;

(d) the charges levelled against Geelani;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.